THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATARAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Instructions exist in the form of codes and manuals *e.g.* Accident Manual, Indian Railway P. way Manual etc. These are supplemented from time to time,as the need arises.

(d) Action, for imposing punishments to various levels of officers and staff, is taken in conformity with the responsibility as arrived at by the enquiry reports. So far, punishment has been awarded to Officers, Permanent way inspectors and other Permanent way staff, wherever, they were found responsible for lapses as per norms. The General Managers (GM) and the Divisional Railway Managers (DRM) are the highest ranked officers of the Zone and the Division respectively, who are responsible for the entirely of activities carried on in their Zone/Division. The enquiry reports have not fixed personal responsibility with GM/DRM in derailment cases so far. No action has, therefore, been taken against General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers so far.

Rail Track between Amethi and Shahganj

408. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a feasibility study was done for laying rail track between Amethi and Shahganj railway stations *via* Sultanpur Junction;

(b) if so, when the results thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to such proposals/findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of new broad gauge line from Amethi to Shahganj *via* Sultanpur (107.9 Kms.) was conducted in March, 2002. As per survey report, the cost of construction of this rail line has been assessed as Rs. 222.18 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of constraint of resources and unviable nature, it has not been found feasible to consider taking up this project.

Declining budgetary support for railway projects

†409. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that budgetary support for various Railway projects is continuously decreasing and its market debt is rising sharply,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.